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UNCLAS ASUNCION 000352

SIPDIS

STATE FOR PM/WRA MARK ADAMS, WHA/BSC KBEAMER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PARM](#) [MASS](#) [PGOV](#) [PA](#)
SUBJECT: MILITARY REQUESTS MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION ASSISTANCE

REF: 07 ASUN 573

¶1. (U) The Paraguayan government seeks USG assistance in destroying the 2,900 firearms and 130,865 pounds of rockets, missiles, and other expired munitions under the auspices of the U.S. Small Arms/Light Weapons Stockpile Management and Destruction Effort Program. Currently, most of these firearms and munitions are stored at the Paraguayan Armed Forces' Military War Material Directorate (DIMABEL) base in Pirebebuy, Cordillera Department.

¶2. (U) The Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) received an official request for USG support from Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Bernardino Soto in June 2007 (reftel). In response, PM/WRA sent Senior Advisor Mark Adams to Paraguay May 9 to assess the assorted firearms and munitions. DIMABEL Commander Coronel Francisco Caballero briefed Adams and PolOff during their visit on DIMABEL's plan to destroy its expired firearms and munitions. He indicated that DIMABEL plans to destroy all of them at two locations in the remote western Chaco region. Adams visited and inspected DIMABEL'S firearms warehouses and munitions bunkers and noted the deteriorated condition of these articles.

¶3. (U) The Paraguayan government indicated that it would like to begin munitions destruction as soon as possible, and requested WRA funding, materials, and technical assistance to destroy the following firearms and munitions:

-- 2,900 Mauser rifles; and

-- 130,865 pounds of munitions, including rockets, missiles, expired explosives, grenades, bombs, bullets, and cartridges.

The Paraguayan government did not estimate the total financial assistance needed to destroy these firearms and munitions; however, it requested 3,610 gallons of gasoline at an approximate cost of USD 12,500 (50 million Paraguayan guaranies) to transport the firearms and munitions from their current location to destruction sites.

¶4. (U) The Paraguayan government interposes no objection to USG supervision for the destruction of these firearms and munitions.

¶5. (U) POC for this request is Embassy Asuncion Political-Military Officer Michael Edwards, telephone: 011-595-21-213-715, e-mail: edwardsmg@state.gov.

¶6. (U) This message has been cleared by Mark Adams, PM/WRA.

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